

REMARKS

Applicants submit this Amendment and Response to Office Action in response to an Office Action mailed in the above-captioned application on August 6, 2009. Therein the Examiner indicated that the subject application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters and that prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex Parte Quayle*. This Amendment and Response to Office Action is intended to be fully responsive to the formal matters raised in the outstanding Office Action, and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested. Applicant does not acquiesce to any portion of the Office Action not particularly addressed herein.

In the present Office Action, the following formal matters were raised:

- 1) In claims 9, 13, 16, 27, 31 and 32 all instances of "the grooves" should be changed to -- the one or more grooves -- and all instances of "the cylinders" should be changed to -- the one or more cylinders --.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above issues are addressed by the amendments to the claims presented herein. Thus, Applicants submit that the subject application is currently in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested the Examiner so find.

1. Status of the Claims

Claims 9, 13-18 and 27-32 have been allowed subject to the correction of the above-mentioned formal matters. Claims 9, 13, 15, 16, 27, 31 and 32 are amended herein. Claims 1-8, 10-12, 19-26 and 33-48 have been previously canceled. No new matter is added by these amendments. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 9, 13-18 and 27-32 are pending in this application.

Applicants note that the present Office Action only indicates on the PTOL-326 form that claims 9 and 13-18 are pending in the present application. However, applicants respectfully submit that claims 27-32 are also pending in the present application, along with claims 9 and 13-18. Indeed, the Examiner notes on page 2 of the Office Action that: "In claims 9, 13, 16, 27, 31 and 32 all instances of "the grooves" should be changed to -- the one or more grooves -- and all instances of "the cylinders" should be changed to -- the one or more cylinders --." (emphasis added). Additionally, applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has allowed claims 27-32 in the previous two Office Actions mailed on July 13, 2007, and March 14, 2006, respectively.

As such, applicants respectfully submit that after entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 9, 13-18 and 27-32 are pending in this application. Applicants respectfully submit that the above-noted formal matters raised by the Examiner have been addressed by the amendments to the claims presented herein. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9, 13-18 and 27-32 are currently in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested the Examiner so find.

2. Claim Amendments

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by way of the foregoing claim amendments. Claims 9, 13, 15, 16, 27, 31 and 32 have been amended to more clearly recite the subject matter associated with the present disclosure. More particularly, applicants have amended claims 9, 13, 15, 16, 27, 31 and 32 so that: (i) all instances of "the grooves" have been changed to the one or more grooves, (ii) all instances of "the cylinders" have been changed to the one or more cylinders, and (iii) all instances of "the abutments" have been changed to the one or more abutments." Applicants have also amended claims 13, 16 and 27 to recite that "the one or more horizontally extending grooves are disposed on a surface of the cylindrical body."


As amended, claims 9, 13-18 and 27-32 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by way of applicants' proposed claim amendments, and prompt entry thereof is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit that the above-noted formal matters raised by the Examiner have been addressed by the amendments to the claims presented herein. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9, 13-18 and 27-32 are currently in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Prompt entry of this Amendment and Response and issuance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9, 13-18 and 27-32 are currently in condition for allowance. No fee is believed to be required in connection with this submission. If, however, an additional fee is required, or otherwise necessary to cover any deficiency in fees paid, authorization is hereby given to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 503570. If there are any questions concerning this paper, the Office is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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